

1526

22 September 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Rodino bill for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty (H.R. 14545)

1. At the request of Representative Peter Rodino (D., N. J.), I met with him in the gallery off the floor of the House on 21 September 1966 to discuss H.R. 14545. Rodino was very upset and said that in a meeting of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization that morning, the Chairman, Mr. Michael Feighan, had noted my call on him the previous day and said that the Agency has no interest in the early passage of this bill and that it could be put over until the next session. I explained to Rodino the circumstances of my call to Feighan and that I had stated that the Agency is very much interested in the bill and would like to see it passed. I told Rodino that Feighan said the time was very short and that we had discussed the possibility that the bill might have to go over to the next session because of this. However, it was my understanding that Feighan would back the bill, and it certainly was not my intent to suggest that the bill be put aside until the next session. At this point Feighan walked by and at my suggestion Rodino brought him into the discussion. I told Feighan that I was sorry if I had mislead him but that the Agency is very much interested in seeing the bill pass this session, particularly since there is a morale problem involved with the employees of these two organizations. Feighan took the view that there could be no great urgency this session, and it would be better in view of the importance of other pending business that the bill be put over. I again noted our interest in seeing the bill pass this session but did acknowledge Feighan and I discussed the shortness of time remaining in this session.

2. Rodino asked me if I would be willing to appear in executive session before the Subcommittee next week to testify to the importance of this bill, which I agreed to do, although I said they would be better served by someone who is more knowledgeable than I of the problems involved in keeping these employees on the job. Rodino thought this would be an excellent idea, but Feighan suggested that I not come without an invitation, as the Subcommittee had a great deal of business to consider. I assured him that I would not. Feighan then left, and Rodino assured me that we could count on his support and that he was sure he could get the bill through.

3. Rodino noted in passing that Representative Arch Moore (R., W. Va.), who had earlier assured Mr. McCall and myself of his support for the bill, had taken a negative position during the Subcommittee meeting. Subsequently, Mr. J. Garner Cline, Chief Counsel of the Subcommittee, who accompanied me to the meeting with Rodino, told me that the entire situation is the result of political in-fighting going on between Rodino and Feighan and Rodino and Moore within the Subcommittee.



Office of Legislative Counsel

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